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#### Mr. Bryan and the Moral Issue.

The Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN has hired the concert hall of Madison Square Garden for to-morrow night, when he will talk of "The Moral Issue," as it is "involved in pending public questions." Box seats reserved for such clergymen as make application in writing or at the box office up to noon Tuesday. Feeling that the clergy are not doing their duty, Mr. BRYAN has modestly decided "to get them aroused to the importance of awakening the moral idea of the people." Laymen will be admitted to such space as is not preempted by the clergy.

But the deliverance of a concio ad clerum cannot be the sole object of the meeting which Mr. BRYAN has called. There seems to be an accent of confession in his remark to a World reporter that "we have got to measuring everything by the money there is in it, and have lost sight of the conscience or right or justice involved."

A St. Louis despatch, also printed in the World, corroborates curiously the theory that Mr. BRYAN is prepared to make a personal explanation and to renounce "the commercialistic, money spirit" in connection with wills, bequests, testators' letters and executor-legatees. The Hon. Moses CINCINNATUS WET-MORE, the St. Louis anti-trust statesman. who has become a capitalist by selling out to trusts and starting plants for them to buy, is a bosom friend of Mr. BRYAN. Together they have hunted now the Octopus and now the jack rabbit in Col. WETMORE'S preserves.

Col. WETMORE "has made a will leaving to the Democratic party a large sum of money, to be held as a permanent fund for the use of the party." The sum is said to be "not far from \$75,000," and the Colonel "will increase the amount if his worldly affairs prosper in the future as in the past"; and they will if the trusts continue. He is a bachelor, If he has made a provision for the Democratic party, we may be sure that he has done something for Mr. BRYAN. Indeed, if Mr. BRYAN is the Democratic party, as he seems to believe, here is one bequest to him already.

Satisfied with Col. WETMORE'S generous forethought, has not Mr. BRYAN resolved to renounce his claim upon the estate of PHILO S. BENNETT and invited the clergy and the laity to be the witnesses of his regret for having yielded, no doubt under the influence of Mr. BENNETT'S urgent solicitations, to the commercial spirit? Col. WETMORE will provide; and the widow can have her money, without contest. Thus one moral issue in a pending public question will be settled.

#### The Political Situation in Great Britain.

Not for nine years has the House of Commons witnessed a division of parties so nearly even as that which will be exhibited in the session now about to begin. It is already recognized on all sides that if the Balfour Government escape defeat it will owe a precarious retention of power to the Irish Nationalists, or, in other words, to the very men whose attempt to secure Home Rule for Ireland provoked the coalition between Conservatives and Liberal Unionists.

In the Parliament which assembled

in 1892, and lasted for some three years, the Gladstonian Liberals and Irish Nationalists combined had a majority of forty. Small as it was the majority sufficed to pass the second Home Rule bill, and, perhaps, had Mr. GLADSTONE's physical strength permitted him longer to occupy the post of leader, it would not have collapsed in 1895. The followers of Mr. GLADSTONE in the last stage of his career, however, constituted a more homogeneous body than that which Mr. BALFOUR can now hope to command. The 670 members of the House of Commons returned at the general election of September and October, 1900, were divided politically as follows: 334 Conservatives, 68 Liberal-Unionists, 186 Liberals and \$2 National sts. "Obviously, the Ministerial majority at the outset was 134; in other words, a transfer of 68 votes from one side to the other would and without much concern as to the even at that time have forced the Gov-

The net outcome of the by-elections that have taken place since October, 1900, has been materially to decrease the ostensible strength of the Conservative-Liberal-Unionist coalition, so that its majority would now be wiped out if about fifty votes were transferred from the Ministerial to the Opposition lobby. Since the last two by-elections-those at Gateshead and Norwich-nobody doubts that the Free Fooders-a convenient term for those former supporters of the Balfour Government who are now determined to oppose its fiscal policy-will muster more than fifty

votes. It is believed, for instance, that of the Liberal-Unionists at least three-fifths. or say forty, will side with the Duke of DEVONSHIRE in his determined resistance to Mr. Balfour's programme of a retaliatory tariff; and it is certain that a similar stand will be taken by many Conservatives, headed by two ex-Chancellors of the Exchequer, and by a son of the late Lord SALISBURY. Some well informed persons have computed the number of these Tory seceders at upward of eighty, but let us put it no higher than sixty. The total defection, therefore, from the Ministerial ranks

would be about a hundred, or quite enough to extinguish their nominal preponderance and substitute an adverse najority of about one hundred.

Evidently, the assistance of the eightytwo Irish-Nationalists will be indispensable if the BALFOUR Government is to live a week. With their assistance, if our figures are approximatively correct, the Premier would have a majority of about sixty-four, but this majority would not survive a transfer of thirtythree votes from the Ministerial to the Opposition side. Such a transfer would almost certainly take place if, in his concessions to the Irish Nationalists, Mr. BALFOUR should offend some of the deeply rooted prejudices of his Conservative adherents. For example, although nothing is more reasonable than the request of the Irish Nationalists that the Government shall endow a teaching university for Catholics in Ireland, there is no measure more likely to alienate a certain element among the Protestant supporters of the Ministry.

As for the bills which Mr. WYNDHAM has promised to introduce for the relief of agricultural laborers and of the congested districts in the west of Ireland, we assume that these measures could be carried through the House of Commons without causing a split in the Ministerial ranks. It would be otherwise, however, with a proposal to give Ireland Home Rule, even in an attenuated form. A considerable section of his Conservative friends would unquestionably refuse to follow Mr. BALFOUR in that direction.

We must recognize, then, that Mr. BALFOUR will find it extremely difficult to avoid defeat in the House of Commons at the coming session. As he has never been supposed to have any taste for acrobatic performances, it is quite on the cards that he may either renounce the task of governing by resigning the post of Premier, or, by dissolving Parliament, may give his friends and the Free Traders a chance to test each other's strength at the ballot box.

### The Justice and His Nephew.

The Albany Evening Journal propounds theory in defence of Justice WARREN B. HOOKER in regard to one of the Dunkirk and Fredonia scandals affecting nim. The defence is not official, but it is interesting as the first attempt of the kind since the collapse of the original policy of silence.

The Journal presents the case in this

It is alleged that MAURICE J. HOOKER, nephew of the Justice, who was appointed to a position in the Fredonia Post Office, attended school during the whole or part of the time for which he was drawng pay from the Government.

If that is so, young Hooker received pay for services he did not perform. But if that is so, not Justice HOOKER, but the Fredonia Postmaster who appointed the Justice's nephew is respon-

sible for the graft. It is likewise alleged that the Post master who appointed Justice Hooker's nephew was a political creature of Hook-ER's, and that he owed his place to HOOKER'S influence and efforts.

But, continues the Albany Journal, "if Postmaster Taylor was guilty of wrong or questionable acts, Justice Hooker cannot be held responsible for that. It is surely not an act of impropriety for a man in public office to recommend a person for a place. If the person recommended fails to honor the trust reposed in him, that is unfortunate and discreditable to him; but it cannot be made to reflect upon the integrity of the one who believed him fit for the position to which he was appointed."

Thus the circle of irresponsibility, as regards Justice HOOKER in connection with graft, is complete.

This strikes us as an astonishing line of defence for a friendly newspaper to volunteer in behalf of a Justice of the Supreme Court of this State, accused of more or less direct interest in graft. It is true that Justice HOOKER may not have prepared it. He will undoubtedly answer in his own way the serious charges now before the State Bar Association.

Two Sections of the Pure Food Bill. In the House Tuesday the Hon. CHAMP CLARK of Missouri protested against the haste with which the so-called Hepburn Pure Food bill was being "railroaded through." A bill, he said, "which is of the gravest importance, affecting the interest not only of every manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer in the land, but also of every consumer, was dumped in here yesterday and taken up to-day for immediate consideration, giving even time for investigation and reflection." The theory of the friends of the bill seems to be that as most persons want pure existing State legislation on the subject effect or even the Constitutionality of some provisions of the Hepburn bill.

Two sections of it are more than doubtful and require amendment. They are these:

"Section 8. That every person who manufactures or produces for shipment and delivers for transportation within the District of Columbia or any Territory, or who manufactures or produces for shipment or delivers for transportation from any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, to any other State, Territory, or the District of Columbla, or to any foreign country, any drug or article of food, and every person who exposes for sale or delivers to a purchaser in the District of Columbia or any Territory any drug or article of food manufactured or produced within said District of Columbia or any Territory, or who exposes for sale or delivers for shipment any drug or article of food received from a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia other than the State, Territory or the District of Columbia in which he exposes for sale or delivers such drug or article of food, or from any oreign country, shall furnish within business hours and upon sender and full payment of the selling price a sample of such drugs or article of food to any person duly authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture to receive the same, and who shall apply to such manufacturer, producer or vender, or person delivering to a purchaser, such drug or article of food for such sample for such use in sufficient quantity for the analysis of any such

article or articles in his possession. "SEC. 9. That any manufacturer, producer dealer who refuses to comply, upon demand, with the requirements of Section 8 of this act shall be

guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not exceeding \$100, or imprisonment not exceeding one hundred days, or both."

The rest of Section 9 provides penalties for the violation of the act. Sections 8 and 9 in effect put it into the power of any Government inspector to make any merchant selling any article furnish him with a sample of that article. If analysis determines the article to be adulterated, he has been compelled to furnish evidence against himself, to be, in effect, in violation of the Constitution, a witness against himself in a criminal case. Dr. WILEY testified that as far as his experience went with the administration of the law relating to foreign foods, "I think there can be no difficulty in getting all the samples we want without such a section compelling the man to sell to convict himself, if necessary, because there are always ways to get those samples.' So Sections 8 and 9 are unnecessary. Yet the House refused Mr. CLARK's amendment to strike them out, and it rejected his amendment providing that no samples or information derived therefrom shall be used as testimony in a criminal

The lameness of Mr. HEPBURN'S defence of these sections appears in a colloguy between Mr. HEPBURN and Mr. CLARK. Mr. HEPBURN had said airily that there might never be a prosecution against the merchant who has been compelled to furnish samples. If there was, in the course of it the defendant's counsel could object to the introduction of that testimony. "In the mean time this man will aid science in determining whether a wrong is being perpetrated on society. He is to be forced to aid science; and at the proper time he can appeal to the Constitution. That little document, Mr. HEPBURN might have said, is to be suspended for the purposes of this bill.

"Mr. HEPBURN-There is no proceeding against him until later on; and then he may take advantage of the Constitutional provision.

"Mr. CLARK-Well, now, if all that is true, why did you not put it in this proposed statute? "Mr. HEPBURN-It is here.

"Mr. CLARK-No, sir; by the next section it i provided that if the merchant does not give up his stuff to an inspector he shall be guilty of an

"Mr. HEPBURN-Surely. He is compelled to do that. But how does that hurt him in a prosecution? Shall that man say that you want to us this matter against him, possibly in a criminal prosecution? He cannot be permitted to say that, because when the prosecution occurs and the prosecutor proposes to introduce this evidence, then the Constitutional objection of incompetency will be raised and the evidence will be ruled out. so the man will not be harmed. " Mr. CLARK-Now, Mr. Chairman, if that is true.

then there is no sense in putting these sections in the bill.

"Mr. HEPBURN-Yes, sir. We want them in the bill for the purpose of enabling the Secretary, perhaps, to fix his standard-perhaps to find out that there is a ground for a prosecution that may be pending against this person, if other evidence not objectionable can be found against him. " Mr. CLARK-And perhaps for the purpose of in

stituting this criminal proceeding. "Mr. HEPBURN-No; not for that purpose, be

cause it cannot be used for that. " Mr. CLARE-Why can it not be? "Mr. HEPBURN-Because, you say, the Consti-

tution prohibits it. " Mr. CLARK-Certainly; that is what I have said, and that is the reason why those two sections ought o go out of this bill.

" Mr. HEPBURN-The gentleman does not differentiate between the two proceedings-the proceeding to discover whether there is a deleterious substance in this food product, and subsequently, perhaps, the prosecution of the individual for crime. The gentleman does not differentiate between those two things."

No differentiation can change the fact that the bill compels a man to furnish evidence which may be made the ground of a criminal prosecution. We say nothing of the inadvisability, to use no stronger word, of setting the Department of Agriculture as a spy upon the merchants of the country, or the right of every State to regulate its own bill of fare and stomach.

## Governor Taft's Report.

The Hon. WILLIAM H. TAFT brings a sorry budget of news for the antis. The Philippines are pacified. A popular assembly is to be called for the election of a body of councillors to act with the Philippine Commission. The islands have never been so tranquil as they are now. By the middle of 1906, in Governor TAFT's opinion, the natives may be able to conduct their own assembly as a part of the civil government. English and Belgian capitalists are ready to invest their money in railway and industrial enterprises in the islands. The people are ready to have them. A period of railway extension is looked for not only in Luzon, but throughout the other islands.

A thoroughly gloomy condition of affairs, all in all. The predictions of the the most industrious man no adequate antis are unverified. The prophecies of greedy and heartless imperialism give promise of fulfilment. Six years of American occupancy of the Philipfood, any bill for the purpose is good pines have neither exterminated the enough to pass, without reference to natives in the islands nor pulled down the pillars of the Constitution on this continent.

Could anything be more discouraging?

## Investigation or Inquest?

The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has reported favorably a bill providing for a commission to investigate the United States merchant marine and recommend to the next session of Congress appropriate legislation for its extension. The commission would consist of five members of the House of Representatives selected by the Speaker and five Senators named by the President pro tempore. Two members from each house would be chosen from the Democratic party. In its report the committee quotes the testimony of Mr. WINTHROP L. MARVIN of Boston, who used these words in urging the necessity of a comprehensive study of the condition of the shipping interests:

"It is investigation now, gentlemen; investiga-

tion to-day, or inquest to-morrow." Mr. MARVIN'S opinion of the pressing necessity of Government action is based upon the fact, testified to by him, that not since June, 1901, has the keel been laid in any American shippard on either coast of the United States for one steel steamship designed and built for the purpose of foreign commerce." Following the Spanish war there was con-

derable activity in the building of ships. but now Mr. MARVIN is obliged to draw this doleful picture of the conditions

prevailing throughout the country: "There has never been a time in our historyot even in the Revolution, not even in the War of 1812, not even in the war between the States-when cean shipbuilding in the United States was in such condition of absolutely arrested development The ocean tonnage of the United States registry for foreign commerce is smaller now by a few tons than it was in the year 1893. The proportion of American commerce carried in American ships has sunk from 12 per cent. in 1893 to 9 per cent. in

The normal decrease of the present fleet through wreck and wear and tear will soon deprive the nation of even the little part in its own carrying trade it now has. Mr. MARVIN's phrase, "investigation to-day or inquest to-morrow." is not too strong to describe the necessity for prompt and intelligent action.

### The Courser of the Air.

The Hon. JAMES M. ROBINSON, Repre entative in Congress of the Twelfth Indiana district, is a Philistine. He lives n a narrow, matter-of-fact world. He is wholly pedestrian and opposed to the use of wings. The visions of Science are invisible to his bleared eyes. In the House, Saturday, he attacked brutally the Langley airship, and the Administration for encouraging its brief but beautiful rise, fall and plunge into the Potomac. "I will charge directly to the officers of the Government, to its officials and its departments," he said, "a system of twisting the construction of our appropriations, a system of enlargement running wild, and in that charge I see that the War Department, yes, and that the head of the War Department, has permitted an expenditure for scientific purposes of over \$100,000 in a vain attempt to breathe life into an airship project which collapsed, and which, it was known, it seems to me, by every sensible man, had no utility about it, and this they did without the sanction of Congress, by a misconstruction of an act."

Mr. Robinson became excited over the scandal that LANGLEY's airship has cost the Government over \$100,000, when t never had a grain of utility about it. He was sure that nobody on the Democratic side "would expend, even where the law has sanctioned, this money that was sunk in the bottom of the Potomac River by this aerial navigation, this Don Quixote scheme of Prof. LANGLEY."

Mr. Robinson is unjust. That airship may not have lingered long in the ether, but everybody admits that it plumped into the water energetically. Nor was it inutile. It demonstrated, to the general satisfaction if not to that of the Administration, that the laws of gravity still enforce themselves; that the airiest projects and machines must slump and smash, and that what goes up like a rocket will come down like a

The experiment was ingenuous. It had the simplicity of greatness; and Mr. ROBINSON's assertion that "a professor wandering in his dreams," hypnotized the Administration, is as superfluous as rude. This is a time of airships, of bold and high-flying dreams. If a statesman tries to lift himself up by his bootstraps, to tread the azure depths of air, shall he not sympathize with other wanderers of the atmosphere? Aeronauts, be they scientific or political, are justified in cheering the flights and pityng the slumps of one another.

Again we say that Mr. Robinson is a Philistine.

Mr. BRYAN's old followers in the South are speaking up, and they are speaking impatiently, if not disrespectfully. We quote now from the Nashville American:

"The Democratic party is sick and tired of Mr. BRYAN'S domineering tactics. It is not alone the gold Democrats and the moneyed interests of the ountry that are weary of him, but hundreds of housands of the men who zealously followed his panner in 1896 and 1900 demand that he should take his grip off the party's neck."

As if this were not enough, the same old ollower of the peerless states man of defeat goes on to say:

itical extle, and if this is not the result of the St ouls convention we are mightly mistaken in the emper of the people, those who stood by him four and eight years ago." This is treason to the Democracy if Mr.

BRYAN is right in believing that he and Democracy are one.

## Complaint of the Bural Free Delivery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I wish o explain to you the inconvenience which the late postal reforms (?) have caused in this part of the country. There is a misconception of the farmers' desire for speedy mail delivery. Most of them take one or two weekly papers, one or two monthly papers and receive two or three friendly letters a month. A few have more, but many less, that is a fair average. Most of them leave the reading of their papers until Sunday even if received sooner, and the telephone is used almost universally for business comnunications requiring haste. Every farmer sobliged to make daily visits to the creamery. eggs and butter and buy groceries, and this gives every opportunity desired to send and receive mail. There are very few who care for more. county in which I live is bounded or

the south by the Mississippi, along whose bank runs the Burlington. There is no other railroad in the county, nor for many miles adjoining it, except two spur roads on the northern side, which were run in on account of mines and smelters.

There is no public conveyance or means of ravel anywhere, except by stages. Where these have been taken off and free delivery routes substituted, there is no way of travel and no means of carrying freight of any kind. If the carriers were allowed to carry passengers and freight as the stages did there would be no trouble, but the Govern

there would be no trouble, but the Government regulations forbid this. Why they should do this I do not know, but it is commonly believed here that this regulation was inspired by the express companies, also the postal regulation forbidding the sending of paper covered books at newspaper rates, as was formerly done.

The postage on books is so high that few people here can afford to buy them and have them sent by mail, and placing the same rate on paper-bound books has deprived many of books altogether, in a section of country where there are no book stores and no public libraries and no railroads and express companies to be benefited by their loss.

The rate on book postage should be lowered at least half and all mail carriers on country routes should be allowed to carry freight and passengers. There is no probability that the conditions which make these changes necessary here will be changed for many years—perhaps never.

NINETTE M. LOWATER.

# Sympathy for the Spartan Youth.

ringing down the ages.

The Spartan Boy had concealed the fox in his him, "we know just how you felt; we have done the same thing with Welsh rabbit ourselves. Tenderly they praised his heroism and sent him

## INDIGNANT CUBANS.

HAVANA, Jan. 21.—During the last two veeks the press of Cuba has launched its thunderbolts at Senator Foraker. In this the newspapers have been quite wrong. The proper object of attack was the late Military Governor of the island, Dr. Leonard Wood. Doubtless the Cubans will discover their mistake ere many days.

On Jan. 4 news was received in Havana that Senator Foraker, in his report on the Wood case, had stated that "the reason for the differences between Frye-Alexis E. Frye, formerly Superintendent of Schools n Cuba-and Gen. Wood was that the former had employed teachers wholly incompetent, and in many cases women who had been leading immoral lives." Mr. Frve accepted the statement as au-

thentic, and his angry passions and his righteous indignation burst forth in vehement language. "No baser lie," he said, ever issued from the lips of man. No slander ore vile, more far-reaching, affecting the lives of purer and nobler women, was ever hatched for so foul a purpose. That lie was issued in defence of Gen. Wood. It rests with that officer either to deny the statement or to supply proof of so grave a charge." These were vigorous words, but Mr. Frve said that an American Senator's words of shame for Cuba have gone round the world."

The Cuban press took the matter up with energy. The House of Representatives here voted its thanks to Mr. Frve for his vigorous defence of the women of Cuba. and the thanks were conveyed to Mr. Frye by the President of Cuba in person. The Senate also recorded a protest. For eight days Mr. Foraker was duly denounced and vilified. He was called by a large assortment of bad names, and there is no doubt that he would have quite deserved it all had he been guilty as charged. On Jan. 15 Havana received the following news:

WASHINGTON . Jan. 15 .- The storm which has ions which he was reported to made in the report of the investigation of Gen. Wood's administration, has become so severe that he Senator has at last made a statement denying the use of the words credited to him. The Senator Cuban teachers and said nothing which should ause such a protest as has been made by the Cuban enate and press. In explaining away the matter Senator Foraker states that the only expressions he made in regard to the Cuban teachers were quotations from the

estimony given by Secretary Root before the This took Mr. Foraker out of the direct line of fire, although some shots were still sent in his direction. Cuba was a little shy about transferring its bombardment so exalted an official as the Secretary of War, but it generally accepted the Senator's statement. The statement that Mr. Root was the author of the grossly offensive com-

offender. An editorial in the Havana Post of Jan. 16 closed with the following: The Past would like to hear from Mr. Root. Who told you so, Mr. Root? Surely, you will not say that Dr. Wood also said this with your "full knowledge and consent." Cuba is waiting to know the name of the defamer of its women.

ment gave the Cubans the clue to the real

Beyond any doubt, the Cubans have abundant reason for anger and bitter indignation if such a slander has been cas upon all or upon any of her school teachers and it is evident that something stands as a basis for the story which has reached Havana. That something is found in Mr. Root's testimony before the committee. In commenting on the testimony of Mr Frye, Secretary Root stated the ground upon which some of the Cuban school teachers had been dismissed. He said:

It was found that there were very gross abuses paid where they had practically no scholars at all There were places where mulatto women had schools who were the mistresses of the Mayors of had to receipt for their pay by making their mark and there were schools where the teachers were of notoriously bad character.

While the good taste of such comme under any circumstances, may well be called in question, two points are to be noted. One is that the testimony was given in executive, and therefore presumably secret session: the other that the information upon which the Secretary based his evidence must have come from Gen. Wood. This brings us back, beyond a doubt, to the responsible author of that which the Cubans almost universally resent and reject as a

slander and an outrage. Mr. Frye is a man of standing in Cuban circles, and is highly esteemed here for the service he rendered in school establishment The effort to make him responsible for the appointment of teachers who were immora in character has excited the indignation of his many friends in Cuba. As a matter of fact, under the school law, the power of appointment was not in Mr. Frye's hands. It lay with the local (Cuban) school boards The reflection, intentional or otherwise thus cast upon Mr. Frye has been an added cause of Cuban indignation. Mr. Frye has many friends in Cuba. While it may be difficult for Americans to accept or believe such a statement, it is susceptible of proof that Gen. Wood had very few friends or admirers outside of the small political circle which obtained office and personal benefit from his hands. It is probable that Mr. Frye expresses the general sentiment in Cuba in a published interview wherein he

If Gen. Wood is to win promotion by the help of such slanders, by whomsoever uttered, far bette would it be for his memory if he would refuse to limb over the ruined reputations of noble wome and simply consent, as in the past, to climb the shoulders of civil war veterans and other mer earned in the arts of actual war.

Mr. Frye's words, and those of the Cubar papers, have not been measured. If Gen Wood reported to the War Department the information quoted by Mr. Root, the bes that can be said is that it was a most need less exhibition of bad taste. He was no called upon to analyze the reason for his action. "Removed for cause" would have been an ample explanation. If he is not the author of the information, it is his duty or the duty of his friends, to set him straigh before the Cuban poeple. Neither Senator Foraker nor Secretary

Root is or can be the original responsible party. Who is?

## The Little Savings of Uncle Sam,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Did you ever have mail matter sent to you on which there was on ent due for postage, and then received a po from the postmaster asking you to place a penny stamp in an envelope (with the post card, of cour to him? This occurred to me several years ago a Fredonia, on which occasion, while commending the honesty and carefulness of the head office in framing laws whereby Uncle Sam would get al there was coming to him, I suggested that Mr Taylor, the postmaster (who, by the by, has no yet been removed), write to Washington that th age and take its chances to get that cent instead of asking me to spend three cents. &c He did not act; as the saying goes, the inciden

was closed. To-day I received a similar post card from New York instead of Fredonia—and I swore.

Isn't it pardonable, in the light of recent events ramed in the Department at Washington or passe

by Congress?

former case a little publicity wouldn' do any harm, in the latter is the still strong enough in the House to be appealed to?

M. Jacont.

### HOOKER-ODELL. Lawyer Advocates the Election of Jus-

tices of the Appellate Division. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The existing method of selecting Justices of the Appellate Division is evidently unsatisfactory all around, as even the Governor has expressed a desire to be relieved from the duty of designating them. The proposal to trans fer the power to the Court of Appeals would seem to me only to make bad worse. No good reason can be advanced why the Judges of that court should be distracted from their judicial labors by the appeals of politicians Division, and it is conceivable that it might of Appeals to have to criticise severely or point out the errors or reverse the judgmen of the Appellate Division rendered by men

f their own selection. The people of the State seem to be conpetent to elect proper men to be Judges of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, and all the other courts, and the policy of the State is to have the Judges elected by the people within the territory for which they are to act; therefore, it seems to me proper that the Justices of the Appellate Dithe respective judicial departments. The proposition of Senator Henry W. Hill

to have the Constitution amended by permitting the Justices of the Appellate Division to sit at trial and special terms, if adopted, would be a return to a condition of things that was wisely abolished by the present Constitution. The Appellate courts ought be, as they are generally, above suspicion But they were not above suspicion, or satistices composing the Appellate Court were reviewing judgments and orders made by each other. The requirement that the Justices of the Appellate Division should not sit at trial or special terms gave the litigants the satisfaction that their appeals would be heard and decided by men who were impartial, and under no obligation to overlook the errors of personal friends sitting on the same bench before which the appeals were Throughout the whole State there is an

an evident demand and necessity for Supreme Court Judges to cut down the enormous said to be justice denied. There ought not o be any reason why a person having a right to enforce, or a wrong to prevent, should not be enabled to present his grievance and have it decided by a court without waiting for two or three years to have it disposed of and, if appealed from, many years in addition. Adopting an amendment to the Con stitution for the election of Justices to the Appellate Division exclusively would give the Supreme Court, trial and special terms as great a number of Judges in each departand confined to the work of the Appellate

If the Supreme Court needs any greater relief, it might be secured very readily, and at small additional expense, by increasing the jurisdiction of the county courts from \$2,000 o \$5,000 in all counties except those having population exceeding 120,000, in which, by he Constitution, the county Judges are now prohibited from practising as attorneys or acting as referees; and in these the money jurisdiction should be increased to at least 25,000, as this would no doubt attract to those courts a large amount of litigation in accident cases which is consuming much of the time of the Supreme Court. The alaries of these county Judges could be nereased to cover the additional work thus sed upon them. \* ARTHUR J. BURNS. YONKERS, Jan. 23.

### Graft at the Gateway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: This matter of robbing the immigrants on their arrival is not such a bad thing, if you will only look at it in the right light and not let your prejudice cloud your reason, as it does two good things for the poor benighted foreigner right at the start. the value of our money—it must be good or wouldn't cost so much to get it. Secondly, it shows him that in dealing with

ome of the leading American statesmen their families, or their agents, he must watch would show more intelligence if he learned This robbing of the poor immigrant is at

the most a very trivial offence as compared with the stealing of the food and clothing from our helpless and unforturate wards in the various institutions in our State and the attempt to dispose of the plunder for votes the way of lessened taxes. It must cause a daily revolt in the soul

of our clean and exemplary Fiscal Supervisor to be a party to such an atrocity. Even grave robbery is a petty misdemeano is compared with this crime, as you cannot njure the dead, while the outrages that are peing perpetrated on the inmates of our inrecovery or reform in the case of every perler restraint.

If I had any inclination to indulge in either ine of effort I would choose the latter as being much more honorable and far less injurious to the unfortunates in the human family. It would seem, however, as though the notto lived up to by some of this bunch was to spare the cradle and the grave-but to work everything in between. AN M. D.

The Boll Weevil's Silent March. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str. The appeal otton industry has caused universal interest. The boll weevil, which threatens its destruction and destroy it is a problem which seems hard to No solution has as yet been reached. When the plague appeared in Russia many years

sacrificed in the holocaust. But the pestilence was swath is made in advance of them and their prog-In burning districts, when the flames are beyond control, buildings are often blown up to check

ago an order was issued to apply the torch to the

town. Men, women and children

their progress.

Could not some method be devised from these suggestions which will effectively destroy the holl eevil, the invincible foe of the great C. E. MASON.

The Presidential Year Bugaboo. The Business Man to his Wife: To cut expenses down, my dear, Is absolutely needful Marie must be more heedful. And surely now that Tad is three A nurse is not essen Black ruin is our vis-a-vis-This year's a Presidential.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.

Dear bird, my debt to you is great Don't, for a time at any rate, Increase the obligation Your next descent on us postpone (My reason is potential Till nineteen five is fairly grown-This year's a Presidential

To the Stork:

To the Rector: I like your project to reclaim The festive Filipino. But trade just now's as dull a game As old maid or casino: And if my pew rent's to be paid. Must get along on moral aid-This year's a Presidential

To his Office Boy: You're seventeen and want a raise? That should provide for rainy days If you are good and thrifty! But—well, I'll make it three—and, son, Don't grow too consequential! Pour's your price? It can't be done!-This year's a Presidential. To himself:

It's all a huge canard, of course, Hard times do not attend, perforce t we will profit by the scare Who are intelligential: I'll mend my fortunes now, for fair

AGAIN WE LEAD THE WORLD. For the Fourth Year Our Total of Rr.

ports Heads the Column TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: For the calendar year 1903 we lead the world in exports of domestic products. Only thrice pefore has this honor been ours, namely,in the calendar years 1898, 1900 and 1901. The Department of Commerce and Labor, through its Bureau of Statistics, gives the figures of each calendar year, commencing in 1875, of our domestic exports, compared with those of our chief exporting rivals, Great Britain and Germany. For our purpose the figures of each fifth year from 1875 to 1900 and each year since will be sufficient. For easy read-

ing only round figures are quoted: States. Britain. Germany. . \$497,000,000 \$1,087,000,000 \$593,000,000 ...... 875,000,000 1,085,090,000 688,000,000 680,000,000 673 000 000 1 037 009 000 807,000,000 1,100,000,000 789,000,000 894,000,000 1.233.000.000 1.135.000.000 ......1,453,000,000 1,417,000,000 1901...........1,438,000,000 1,332,000,000 1,054,000,000 1.113,000,000 ......1,333,000,000 1,379,000,000 

It is to be noted that while Great Britain's estic exports increased by only \$328,000,000 in 1903 over 1875, and Germany increased its the United States increase was \$960,000,000. This covered the combined British and German increase and \$25,000,000 over.

From the standpoint of domestic exports, the United States, Great Britain and Germany are the only "billion-dollar countries" in the world. The United States did not have the honor of belonging to this trio of the world's leading export nations till the year following Mr. McKinley's first election, in 1896. Germany adopted protection in 1880, and under it her domestic exports have 1880, and under it her domestic exports have risen from \$688,000,000 to \$1,200,000,000. By 1897 the United States equafied Great Britain's \$1,079,000,000 of ten years previously—1887. To do it we had to climb up \$378,000,000. Our \$1,475,000,000 for 1903 beats Great Britain's best year, 1900, (\$1,417,000,000), by \$58,000,000, and Germany's best year, 1903, (\$1,200,000,000), by \$757,000,000. In the light of national comparison our upward progress is strikingly portrayed in the following groupings:

United Kingdom \$1,087,000,000
France 747,000,000
Germany 583,000,000
United States 497,000,000 Here we played fourth fiddle in the quartet. United Kingdom 680,000,000 673,000,000 596,000,000

This promotes us from fourth to third fiddle. This raised us from third to second fiddle.

This gives us the position of first fiddle and concert master in this international quar-et. The fault will be our own if we fail to retain it. The United States is now the world's greatest exporter of domestic proc WALTER J. BALLARD. THE VAGRANT UNCHARTED ROCK.

### s It Wandering Up and Down Our Coast From Cape Henry to Bar Harbor?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The American Syren, a journal devoted to shipping matters, suggests that it would be a to more cruising in home waters and get acnear almost every day of a vessel being run aground" along our coast. The Army and Vary Journal has characterized the ontain of the Syren as "base libel," and in strenuous defense of the naval officer winds up as fol ows: "When our vessels have touched botom in American waters it has been on un charted rocks."

It has been well known in naval circles for long time past, and a source of much connot yet ascertained, has been drifting un The Hydrographic Office, while not always peing able to report the course of this erratio times by naval experts, has made, nevertheless, scientific and deep research into the subject with a view of establishing, if possible, its precise movements. If this could be done

its precise movements. If this could be done
it is conceded by naval men generally that an
invaluable service would be rendered to the
commanders of our vessels of war.

In the summer of 1902, during the manœuvres, the rock was found off Clark's
Point, near New Bedford, Mass., by one of
our first class cruisers. She rested on it
for some time and found that it was hard,
but not altogether smooth. With varying
success other vessels of the navy picked up
the monster that year at a number of places
on the coast.

success other vessels of the navy picked up the monster that year at a number of places on the coast.

In August, 1903, the torpedo boat Decatur Carefully located the rock, twenty miles south of Bar Harbor, and carried way her propeller. The same month the Olympia, our pride of the sea, came across the rock in Casco Bay with considerable damage to herself. Then the Massachusetts knocked her plates full of ugly holes by discovering that the crag had actually got into Bar Harbor. From the foregoing incidents it appears that the granite wanderer had made its way from Buzzards Bay slowly but surely around Cape Cod and had taken a northerly course up the New England shores.

In September the training ship Alliance alighted on the rock in Long Island Sound. This shows that it had made a long, recordbreaking passage to the southwest. The naval tug Leyden, later on, smashed herself to pieces on the rock at Block Island, whither it had drifted. Strange to say the Machias came in contact with this cajoling terror of the deep in Delaware River, the commanding officer not supposing that it could get so far up stream. It is hinted that it must possess some peculiar magnetic power, else the submarine boat Moccasin would not have been drawn in its embrace thirty-five miles to leeward of Cape Henry and embedded in it.

From the above authentic narrative of

it. From the above authentic narrative From the above authennic narrative the queer journeyings of the uncharted rock—a narrative, however, which is in no sense complete—is it not the clear duty of the Government to make an effort to get hold of this obstacle, which is of such great peril to the navigator of the navy, and chain it up? The numerous smashings which have occurred the past year to our war craft are undoubtthe past year to our war craft are undedly due, in large measure, to this present sign of disaster which haun minds of our naval heroes.

NewPORT News, Va., Jan. 23.

The Glories and Pride of St. Louis.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The gentleman who signs the initials "W. L. C." has not had the advantage of St. Louis society and education. This is evidenced by his unfortunate manner and his riot of quotation marks. We of St. Louis al-ways feel a touch of grief over the luckless chap of the tall timbers who knows nothing of our excellent system of public and private schools, who has not basked in the gloriousness of our sunny climate, who has not felt the kiss of our "summer of Allsaints," the blessed period from Sept. 15 to Dec. 1; who has not ridden over our miles of rolling boule-wards, or tasted the hospitality that all the world will find next year within the walls of our spacious and even magnificent mansions. Aside from the fact that we have easily the most American of all our cities and the most beautiful of all save New York, we shall within a few months have on view "the greatest show on earth." It is a solemn fact that the Chicago fair, the Paris fair of 1900, the lo fair and the Omaha expos set down inside of the fences of the Louisiana Purhase show, leaving room about the edges for a ST. Louis, Jan. 22.

#### Fow Divorces in Canada. From the Boston Transcript

The scarcity of divorces in Canada is remarkable. In Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and the Territories divorces can be obtained only by an act of the sixty-nine were so secured. In the other province they may be obtained in the courts, and during the same period Nova Scotla has granted musty-two, New Brunswick seventy-three, British Coumble forty-seven and Prince Edward Island none.

## Bismarck's Highly Honored Servant.

From the Argonaut.

It is related that Pinnow, the faithful servant and personal valet of the late Prince Bismarck. who recently died, once trod on his master's gouty foot. Instead of swearing at him or even declaring he was a clumsy fool, Bismarck, noticing that Pla-now himself was frightened, said: "Consider your self honored. No other person, my dear Pinnow.

Russian govern small would Christian well of Finn's We for Franch British but the cody of felt the the medical by the selection of the medical which extent the beat meet in seasier now it is a selected with the seasier for the medical would and it is high a selected cody of the medical would be the fortist with the fortist with

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Bish service last ever ston for the hall beinger coul, a tann climbin scannar the darker mission scalon and LC North talker talk